



**For Immediate Release
April 8, 2003**

Contact: Neil Bradley: 202-226-9717

House Conservatives: Willing to Discuss Tax Number in Budget, Unwilling to Simply Accept Senate Number

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Today twenty-nine House Members joined Republican Study Committee Chairman Sue Myrick (R-N.C.) in sending a letter to the Speaker of the House announcing their intention to oppose a Budget Resolution if it only provides \$350 Billion under reconciliation for an economic growth package.

In releasing the text of the letter, Myrick stated: "In any conference between the House and the Senate you expect some degree of compromise. House conservatives are willing to discuss the appropriate tax and spending levels in the Budget. What is astounding to me and many of my colleagues is that some in the Senate want the House to compromise and increase spending, but then turn around and say that the number for the economic growth package has to be their number. This is not how we should produce a Budget Resolution."

The text of the letter sent by the Members is reset below:

Dear Mr. Speaker:

The House-passed Budget Resolution included reconciliation instructions that fully accommodated the President's Economic Growth Package. The Senate-passed Budget Resolution includes instructions providing for less than half of the President's proposal.

According to the non-partisan Heritage Foundation, compared with the Bush plan over the next five years, the Senate's proposal will have the following result:

- Reduce the GDP by \$40 billion per year;
- Shrink job creation by 552,000 jobs per year;
- Reduce capital investment by \$45 billion per year; and
- Reduce disposable income by \$224 per person.

We are disturbed by recent press reports that indicate that some Senators are unwilling to compromise and have said that they will oppose any Budget Resolution that includes reconciliation instructions that provide for more tax relief than the Senate-passed Budget. This intransigence will only end up hurting the economy and the thousands of Americans who would have found a new job under the President's plan, but who will be left behind under the Senate plan. Furthermore, it is ironic that some of these Senators fully expect the House to compromise and increase spending to levels more closely resembling the Senate Budget.

We write to inform you that we cannot support a Budget Resolution that only provides for \$350 billion for an economic growth package. While we are willing to discuss compromises to the House-passed Budget, including the reconciliation instructions for an economic growth package, we cannot in good conscience simply accept the Senate-passed tax number.

Sincerely,